

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 218556
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY: D/HA/FASIEVERTS

APPROVED BY: D/HA: MR. OAKLEY

EA/VLC-MR. BROWN

D/HA MS. DERIAN

DOD/ISA-CAPTAIN VOHDEN

S/S-JETHYDEN

-----070311 130512Z /20

O P 130206Z SEP 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY PRIORITY

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR,MILI, US, VN,LA

SUBJECT: MIA'S

REFERENCES: A) STATE 211880 (BEING REPEATED TO VIENIENTAINE)

B) STATE 193004 C) VIENTIANE 1183

1. IN CONNECTION WITH SEPTEMBER 30 HANOI MISSION, WE THINK 'IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR FRANK SIEVERTS TO MAKE BRIEF TRIP TO VIENTIANE FOLLOWING HANOI TRIP FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH LAO ON MIA'S AND TO DELIVER ADDITIONAL MIA CASE RECORDS. MIA FAMILIES EXPRESS CONTINUING CONCERN AT LACK OF MIA ACCOUNTING IN LAOS, AND WE WOULD SEE SIEVERTS VISIT AS OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND LAO OF OUR CONCERN, WHILE REASSURING FAMILIES THAT OUR CONTINUING MIA EFFORTS INCLUDE LAOS AS

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WELL AS VIETNAM.

2. UNLESS YOU SEE OBJECTION, WE SUGGEST YOU INFORM LAO THAT SIEVERTS WOULD LIKE TO VISIT VIENTIANE BRIEFLY TO FOLLOW UP ON DISCUSSIONS IN WHICH HE PARTICIPATED WITH WOODCOCK COMMISSION, AND ON OAKLEY AND BROWN VISITS. IF LAO IN THE MEANWHILE HAVE FOUND MIA INFO OR REMAINS SIVERTS VISIT

WOULD OF COURSE PROVIDE GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO TURN THESE OVER
TO APPROPRIATE US OFFICIAL.

3. WE EXPECT HANOI MISSION TO RETURN TO CLARK AIR BASE LATE
SEPTEMBER 30, SO SIEVERTS VISIT TO VIENTIANE COULD BE
ARRANGED CONVENIENTLY FOLLOWING THAT, E.G. OCTOBER 2-3 OR
3-4.

4. FYI, SIEVERTS VISIT TO VIENTIANE WOULD BE ESPECIALLY
USEFUL AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS
FOLLOWING DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESUMPTION
OF STATUS REVIEWS (REF B). ATTORNEY FOR SOME MIA FAMILIES
HAS OBTAINED TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER FROM FEDERAL
COURT IN NEW YORK HOLDING UP STATUS REVIEWS PENDING
CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES HE HAS RAISED CONCERNING STATUS
REVIEW DECISION. A PRINCIPAL ALLEGATION OF THESE FAMILIES
IS THAT USG EFFORTS TO SEEK INDOCHINA MIA ACCOUNTING
WILL SLACKEN IF ALL MIA'S ARE DECLARED DEAD. SIEVERTS
AND DEFENSE WITNESSES ARE SCHEDULED TO APPEAR BEFORE
COURT SEPTEMBER 19 TO AFFIRM USG POLICY AS STATED IN REF B
THAT OUR EFFORTS WILL BE UNAFFECTED BY STATUS REVIEWS.
WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR SIEVERTS TO BE ABLE TO INFORM COURT
OF PROPOSED VISIT TO LAOS AS WELL AS VIETNAM TO DEMONSTRATE
OUR COMMITMENT ON THIS SUBJECT. END FYI.

5. ALSO FYI, SIEVERTS IS NOW DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
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FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS. END FYI.

6. FOR BANGKOK: SIEVERTS ALSO HOPES TO VISIT THAILAND
FOLLOWING HANOI AND POSSIBLE VIENTIANE STOPS, TO REVIEW
INDOCHINA REFUGEE AND FAMILY REUNION MATTERS, AND TO
VISIT REFUGEE CAMPS. SEPTEL FOLLOWS.

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